



ATF NIBIN Program Hits of the Week

April 4 to April 11, 2005

NIBIN Branch, Firearms Programs Division, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives

Week of 4/4:

The Houston (TX) Police Department linked a pistol recovered from a suspect in a robbery and carjacking to a shell casing recovered at the scene of an attempted carjacking two days earlier. In the first incident the victim was standing near his vehicle in the parking area outside his apartment when three suspects approached him while a fourth suspect pulled a vehicle in front of his car to block him in. One of the suspects pointed a pistol at the victim and demanded he give them his car. The victim refused and yelled for assistance. The armed suspect fired a shot in the air and then all four suspects drove away in their vehicle. Police found a 9mm casing at the scene and imaged it into the NIBIN system. Two days later a woman was leaving a grocery store when she was robbed at gunpoint in the parking lot. The two suspects took cash and her car. The victim called police and gave them information on her vehicle and a description of the suspects. A short time later, officers spotted the vehicle and stopped it. During the arrest a 9mm pistol was found in the stolen vehicle's glove box. Police brought the victim to the scene and she positively identified the suspects as those who had robbed her. The pistol was test fired and imaged into NIBIN, which linked it to the casing found at the attempted carjacking two days before.

Week of 4/11:

The Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension Laboratory in St. Paul (MN) used the NIBIN system to link a pistol recovered by the Mankato Police Department to ballistic evidence recovered by the Plymouth Police Department from a shooting that occurred eleven days earlier. Plymouth Police responded to a call of a shooting outside a fitness center where two employees told the officers they got into a confrontation with a carload of men in the parking lot who were suspected of tampering with lockers in the club. One of the suspects was cut on the face during the confrontation and got a gun out of the trunk of the car and began shooting at the two employees. Neither of the victims was injured, but officers found several 9mm casings at the scene, which were imaged into NIBIN. Eleven days later the Mankato Police were called to a bar for a report of a man causing a disturbance. When police arrived, they saw three suspects walking behind the bar and ordered them to stop. One of the suspects was carrying a 9mm pistol in his waistband, which had the serial number scratched off. He was arrested for carrying a concealed weapon. He told police he purchased the gun two days earlier from another man. The pistol was test fired at the Laboratory and entered into NIBIN, which resulted in the link to the shooting at the fitness center. The firearm was traced to the last known purchaser, who is also a suspect in the fitness center shooting.